

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01963 081257Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----042003 081348Z /75

R 081135Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8533
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1963

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, BY, RW, TZ
SUBJECT: NYERERE'S VISIT TO BURUNDI, RWANDA

1. PRESIDENT NYERERE MAY 8 BEGAN A 5-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BURUNDI AND RWANDA. HIS ENTOURAGE INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA, MINISTER FOR WORKS SITTA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT MWINGIRA, AND LEADERS OF TANZANIAN REGIONS THAT BORDER ON BURUNDI AND RWANDA.
 2. VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE OPENING OF TANZANIAN EMBASSIES IN BUJUMBURA AND KIGALI (DAR ES SALAAM 954). FOREIGN MINISTRY DECLARED MAY 6 THAT THIS WAS "AIMED AT CONSOLIDATING RELATIONS WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES." CHARGES FOR EACH EMBASSY HAVE BEEN NAMED. BIO DATA FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
 3. MAY 8 EDITORIAL IN TANGOV-OWNED DAILY NEWS COMMENTED ON TANZANIA'S RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI AND RWANDA. IT SAID THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN THEY CAN COOPERATE AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. IT ALSO NOTED THAT BURUNDI AND RWANDA NEED HELP IN
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GETTING TO THE SEA. EDITORIAL EVEN FOUND AN HISTORICAL LINK:
"THE TIE THAT BINDS THE THREE COUNTRIES IS VIVIDLY CHRONICLED IN COLONIAL HISTORY. AT ONE TIME, THE THREE COUNTRIES WERE DOMINATED IBY THE SAME COLONIAL MASTER - GERMANY." JOINT PROJECTS MENTIONED IN EDITORIAL WERE ROAD FROM RUSUMO FALLS IN RWANDA TO TANZANIA'S CENTRAL
RAIL LINE AT ISAKA (NORTH OF TABORA IN

WESTERN TANZANIA) AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE KAGERA RIVY
BASIN.

4. COMMENT. NYERERE'S VISIT REFLECTS TANZANIA'S INTEREST
IN INCREASED TIES AT ALL LEVELS WITH BURUNDI EAD RWANDA. WHILE
THE JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE OF AS MUCH BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF
THE NEGLECTED KIGOMA AND WEST LAKE REGIONS IN TANZANIA AS
THEY WILL BE TO BURUNDI AND RWANDA,RTANZANIA HAS AS WELL AN EYE
ON THE BENEFITS TO ITS REGIONAL POLITICAL INTER3STS--ESPECIALLY
VIS-A-VIS ZAIRE-- THAT COULD RESULT FROM TANGIBLE LINKS THUT
BROUGHT THE THREE COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER.
SPAIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DARES01963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-0528
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780584/aaaactkk.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54e9b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2765229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NYERERE'S VISIT TO BURUNDI, RWANDA
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, BY, RW, TZ, (NYERERE, JULIUS K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54e9b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014